



## Mock trial final for county championship a cliff hanger

Last year's runner up for the county championship Catholic High was once again locked in battle with 2008 winner McCaskey High before four jury members in a court room presided over by County Judge Jeffrey D. Wright.

After evaluating the impressive presentations by both teams, the jury split 2 to 2 between McCaskey, representing the Plaintiff, and Catholic High, for the Defendant.

As a tie breaker, points awarded to attorneys and witnesses through out the contest were added up. Again the teams were dead even.

**Finally, a third tie-breaking criteria was applied, and Lancaster Catholic won by the narrowest of margins.**

For the victors, regional contests lie ahead and aspirations of reaching the state finals.

For the losers....there's next year.

## Veri and Jamanis take insights, thrill audience in Budapest

For admirers of the Lancaster piano duo, artistic founders of the Pennsylvania Music Academy (PAM), and for those who simply enjoy good music and travel, visit:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWwu\\_mj6YpQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWwu_mj6YpQ).

Veri's former Lancaster piano student, now Budapest resident, and current East European real estate developer Richard Field 'filmed' the couple with a hand held video camera as they went sight seeing in Budapest and during their

concert. He then edited their concertizing into a very educational and entertaining short video.

The concert sound track is actually from Veri's original two piano arrangement that Veri and Jamanis recorded and released in 1997 to mark Gershwin's 100th birthday, which explains its high reproduction quality.

Veri and Jamanis are scheduled to perform the full Gershwin program at Weil Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall) on March 26th at 8:00 pm.

## LETTER: Visitors Bureau covert site impressive

"I found the following purely by accident:  
<http://www.padutchcountryblog.com/>

"At first glance, this site looks like nothing more than a blog about Lancaster County. But look at the "About" page: it is actually a function of the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau...

What's more, the PDCVB is intentionally using

social networks like Flickr, Twitter, FaceBook, and YouTube to "stealth" market Lancaster County tourism, making it look like ordinary people are posting when in fact it is really PDCVB employees.

"This has been announced several times at LCCCA committee meetings, and can be confirmed by documents posted on the PDCVB web site."

## Current LCCCA committed to transparency

At the Feb. 26th monthly public Lancaster County Convention Center Authority meeting Randolph Carney, a city resident, noted that, according to the LCCCA website, the project current value stands at \$174.4 million.

However, Carney observed, the actual project cost has fluctuated over the course of the past year.

Chairman Art Morris acknowledged that the numbers posted on the website have not been updated since last year's audit.

Secretary Kevin Fry committed to doing all he can to ensure that the data provided online is appropriately updated.

## ***Building Character: Pulsates spirit of adaption and reuse***

*(Cliff B. Lewis on the Downtown cultural scene)*

The 300 block of North Queen Street may well be the cradle of a cultural Renaissance in Downtown Lancaster. And the glowing center of this gestating movement would have to be Building Character.

Tucked away from the west side of Queen, *Building Character's* exposed brick walls and bare rafters have come to shelter a colorful arrangement of local music, art, clothing, and film. The now city-wide tradition of Music Fridays (on the third week of each month) first pulsed through these very walls to the tune of the Faux Minx, Lancaster's hardest-working jazz-funk quintet. And, from the looks of things, this is only the beginning of Building Character's impact on Lancaster's local culture.

Before April 2007, *Building Character* was a drab and silent warehouse. Had it not been for the efforts of local preservationists, this 19th century structure, designed by the same architect as Penn Square's Greist building, would have been flattened into a parking lot. Instead, the building served as a small-time storage facility until less than two years ago, when Tony Nies and Marty Hulse conceived the idea for a

Downtown-based market for antique architectural salvage material.

**Not long after its initial opening, the facility became a fresh venue for emerging Lancaster musicians—apparently a hot commodity at the moment: "The Chameleon," Nies explained, "kind of lost the [status of being] known as the local, raw, underground space for up and coming local artists. Now they're booking David Archuleta. Two years ago, when folk artist and former "Vigilante of Love" Bill Malone visited Lancaster, he performed at the *Chameleon*. This Saturday, February 28, Malone will perform at *Building Character*.**

*Building Character* bears a stark and stylish atmosphere, setting a new local standard for the adaptive reuse of historic industrial structures. Indeed, its entire eclectic block is defined by a spirit of adaptation and reuse—from clothing, to windows, to vintage cigarette lighters. As Nies puts it, "Almost everything in the block reuses in some way....That's one of the things that the block stands for."

*Building Character* is located at 342 North Queen, Warehouse B.

Visit [www.NewsLanc.com](http://www.NewsLanc.com) daily for news, commentary, letters, and other features.  
Suggestions and letters welcome at [info@NewsLanc.com](mailto:info@NewsLanc.com).